



RCE *[initials]*

PTO/SB/30 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

**Request  
for  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal**

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/675,351
Filing Date	September 30, 2003
First Named Inventor	William T. Ball
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Eric K. Nicholson
Attorney Docket Number	P06545US0-144

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-2098. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

05/06/2005 WASFAW1 00000032 10675351

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

01 FC:2801

395.00 OP

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 395.00 enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	5/3/05
Name (Print/Type)	Timothy J. Zarley	Registration No.	45,253

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	5/3/05
Name (Print/Type)	Timothy J. Zarley		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : William T. Ball  
SERIAL NO : 10/675,351  
FILED : September 30, 2003  
TITLE : PIPE COUPLING FOR JOINING PIPES OF  
VARYING DIAMETERS  
GROUP/A.U.: 3679  
Conf. No. : 5782  
Examiner : Eric K. Nicholson  
Docket No.: P06545US0-144

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.114**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the final office action dated  
February 14, 2005, please enter the following amendment.

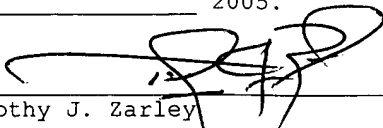
Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of  
claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remark/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

---

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclose  
therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail  
addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA  
22313-1450, on this 3rd day of May 2005.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy J. Zarley